

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 ABF-01

ORM-02 HEW-06 /097 W

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R 041916Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6143

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 0835

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, UN, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON:UNSYG APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: USUN 759

1. USUN RECEIVED ON MARCH 3 SYG WALDHEIM'S FORMAL REQUEST
FOR ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON. (COPY BEING POUCHED TO DEPT).

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE SO 500

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS HIS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND HAS THE HONOUR
TO ENCLOSE HERewith A STATEMENT CONTAINING AN APPEAL FOR
ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON.

26 FEBRUARY 1976

APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
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REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

ALTHOUGH THE TRAGIC CONFLICT IN LEBANON HAS COME TO AN
END, THE DEVASTATION WHICH IT WROUGHT DEMANDS THE CONTINUED
CONCERN AND COMPASSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THE RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS IN LEBANON RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL
LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AS WELL AS THE DISPLACEMENT OF
MANY THOUSANDS OF PERSONS. MOREOVER, THOUSANDS OF HOMES
AND PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. ALTOGETHER
SOME 400,000 PERSONS ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY
AND ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THESE EVENTS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON HAS MOVED PROMPTLY TO DEAL
BOTH WITH THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS
OF THE CONFLICT AND WITH THE LONGER TERM PROBLEMS OF RECON-
STRUCTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY. MOREOVER, VARIOUS AGENCIES
AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM HAVE BEEN
PROVIDING SOME ASSISTANCE. THE BASIC FOOD NEEDS ARE BEING
SUBSTANTIALLY MET THROUGH A CONTRIBUTION BY THE WORLD FOOD
PROGRAMME FROM EXISTING RESOURCES TALLING \$10 MILLION
IN VALUE. LIMITED QUANTITIES OF MEDICINES ARE BEING PROVIDED
BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC), BUT MUCH MORE IS NEEDED.

THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) HELPED WITH
BLANKETS, SOME FOOD AND DRUGS. IT IS ALSO PREPARED TO
UNDERTAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO HELP REHABILITATE A RANGE
OF SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN. THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) HAS SURVEYED THE
EXTENSIVE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DISLOCATION OF THE CIVILIAN
POPULATION, WHICH IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST UNSTABILIZING
ELEMENTS IN THE SITUATION. HE HAS COMMENCED PROVIDING ASSISTANCE
TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF THIS GROUP, INCLUDING SHELTER.
THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) AND THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ECWA) WILL BE
DEVOTING ATTENTION TO THE LONGER TERM RECONSTRUCTION
REQUIREMENTS.

THE CONFLICT HAS ALSO SERIOUSLY AFFECTED PALESTINE
REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN LEBANON. REFUGEE HOUSING, SCHOOLS
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AND OTHER FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT USED BY REFUGEES
WERE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF
AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR
EAST (UNRWA) HAS UNDERTAKEN EMERGENCY RELIEF TO THOSE
MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED, PROVIDING BLANKETS, FOODSTUFFS
AND MEDICINES.

IN ADDITION TO THE MUCH LARGER SUMS NEEDED FOR

RECONSTRUCTION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON WILL BE SEEKING AND IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL MAINTAIN A CONTINUING INTEREST, IT IS CLEAR THERE IS A NEED FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DURING THE BALANCE OF 1976 ESTIMATED AT \$50 MILLION.

BASED UPON A REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON, RECENTLY ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO ME, I THEREFORE APPEAL FOR MEMBER STATES TO RESPOND TO THESE URGENT NEEDS THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH AND KIND TO THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, IN ADDITION TO WHATEVER BILATERAL ASSISTANCE MAY BE EXTENDED.

TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES, I AM DESIGNATING UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL WILLIAM B. BUFFUM AS CO-ORDINATOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELIEF FOR LEBANON. I HAVE ALSO ASKED MR. AL-ATTAR, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA TO CO-ORDINATE, WITHIN LEBANON, IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, THE RELIEF PROVIDED BY UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES.

I URGE ALL STATES TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO ALLEVIATE THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT CONFLICT IN LEBANON. GOVERNMENTS ARE INVITED TO MAKE OR INCREASE EXISTING CONTRIBUTIONS EITHER TO ONE OF THE COMPETENT AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES OR DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, DISASTER RELIEF, TEXT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760083-1021
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760393/aaaaddwq.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON:UNSYG APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE
TAGS: SWEL, LE, US, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006